

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /141 W

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R 211009Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2832

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3390

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: FPRO, IS, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 9434 NOTAL

1. SOVIET AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DEGAN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND EVRON, DEP DIR-GEN, MFA CONFIRMED TO US JUNE 20 THAT THERE IS "ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH" TO RUMORS PERSISTENTLY POPPING UP LATELY IN JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES (MAINLY IN SWITZERLAND) AND NOW DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN MOSCOW (REFTEL) THAT RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN USSR AND ISRAEL IS IN OFFING.

2. FOLLOWING HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET-GOI CONTACTS IN GENEVA IN DECEMBER, ISRAELI PRESS WAS FILLED WITH SPECULATION-- AND EXPECTATION-- RE POSSIBILITY EARLY RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS ATMOSPHERE
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WAS EBAN'S OVERLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES BASED ON HIS

CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIETS IN GENEVA.

3. IN RECENT MONTHS, SUBJECT OF RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS HAS SELDOM SURFACED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GOI OFFICIALS AND ONLY RARELY HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE PRESS. IF THIS IS A "LIVE" ISSUE IN THE GOI, THE ISRAELIS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING THIS A SECRET. IN OUR VIEW, THE ISRAELIS WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IF AND WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES-- PRESUMABLY AT SOVIET INITIATIVE--THEY WILL RESPOND IN A "CORRECT AND DIGNIFIED" MANNER WITHOUT GIVING IMPRESSION THEY ARE FALLING ALL OVER THEMSELVES.
KEATING

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